

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08464 141249Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03  
SCA-01 SY-05 DHA-02 /063 W  
-----141252Z 062225 /43

O R 141218Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8669  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, UR, US  
SUBJECT: LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT TOTH TO BE DETAINED IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 8384, (B) MOSCOW 8349

SUMMARY: MFA PRESENTED EMBASSY JUNE 14 WITH PROTEST OF ACTIVITIES  
OF LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT ROBERT TOGH WHO, MFA SAYS, "DURING A  
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SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME" HAS BEEN COLLECTING "SECRET INFORMATION  
OF A POLITICAL AND MILITARY CHARACTER." PROTEST STATES TOTH WILL BE  
SUMMONED FOR INTERROGATION AND CANNOT LEAVE MOSCOW UNTIL THE END OF  
THE INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER MFA HAD FAILED TO RESPOND TO REPEATED REQUESTS BY E/C  
COUNSELOR, ACTING IN PLACE OF DCM, TO PROTEST TOTH DETENTION

JUNE 13, ACTING POLCOUNS CALLED INTO MFA JUNE 14 BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF USA DIVISION, V.V. MIKHAILOV ON "A BILATERAL MATTER." E/C COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED ON ASSUMPTION THIS MATTER CONCERNED TOTH. LATTER PRESENTED WRITTEN EMBASSY PROTEST ON TOTH CASE AT OUTSET BUT WAS PREVENTED BY MIKHAILOV FROM READING PROTEST UNTIL THE LATTER HAD READ HIS "NON-PAPER." MIKHAILOV READ FOLLOWING "PROTEST:" BEGIN TEXT: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE THE FOLLOWING TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY: COMPETENT ORGANS HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL INFORMATION THAT THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE NEWSPAPER LOS ANGELES TIMES ACCREDITED TO THE SOVIET UNION, THE AMERICAN CITIZEN ROBERT CHARLES TOTH, BORN IN 1929, DURING A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE COLLECTION OF SECRET INFORMATION OF A POLITICAL AND MILITARY CHARACTER INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE STATUS OF A FOREIGN JOURNALIST ACCREDITED TO THE USSR.

ON THE 11TH OF JUNE OF THIS YEAR ROBERT CHARLES TOTH WAS APPREHENDED AT THE MOMENT OF MEETING WITH A SOVIET CITIZEN PETUKHOV, VALERIY GEORGIYEVICH, WHICH TOOK PLACE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. WHEN APPREHENDED THE AMERICAN JOURNALIST WAS FOUND TO HAVE MATERIALS GIVEN TO HIM BY PETUKHOV CONTAINING SECRET DATA. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES ITS PROTEST IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPERMISSIBLE ACTIVITY OF THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT ROBERT TOTH CONSISTING OF THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION OF A SECRET CHARACTER, AND EXPECTS THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION IN THE FUTURE OF SIMILAR ACTIONS ON THE PART OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ACCREDITED TO THE SOVIET UNION.

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AT THE SAME TIME THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMS THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW THAT IN CONFORMITY WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE TOTH WILL BE SUMMONED FOR INTERROGATION BY THE INVESTIGATORY ORGANS IN CONNECTION WITH WHICH HIS DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW UNTIL THE END OF THE INVESTIGATION IS NOT DESIRED.

END TEXT.

2. E/C COUNSELOR READ EMBASSY PROTEST (TEXT SEPTEL) AFTER PREFATORY COMMENT THAT WHAT MIKHAILOV HAD JUST SAID ABOUT CASE ADDED A NEW AND MUCH MORE SERIOUS ELEMENT TO MATTER AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOLLOWING READING HE REASSERTED THAT TOTH HAD DONE NOTHING INCONSISTENT WITH HIS JOURNALISTIC FUNCTION. E/C COUNS ALSO ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT "MEASURES" THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS ASKING THE "AMERICAN SIDE" TO TAKE, UNLESS IT WAS TO ASK JOURNALISTS TO REFRAIN FROM MEETING WITH SOVIET CITIZENS. MIKHAILOV DECLINED TO COMMENT.

3. AFTER U.S. PROTEST WAS READ, MIKHAILOV STATED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE U.S. PROTEXT BECAUSE THE TOTH CASE HAD NOTHING

TO DO WITH THE RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS. HE SAID THE MATTER WAS UNRELATED TO CSCE OR THE FINAL ACT BECAUSE THE ACTIVITIES TOTH WAS INVOLVED IN CANNOT BE CONSIDERED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. HE DID ACCEPT COPY OF EMBASSY "NON-PAPER" FOR, HE SAID, "INFORMATION."

4. WE REITERATED POINTS IN PARA 2 AND DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT ENDED.

5. TOTH HAS BEEN INFORMED OF CONTENTS OF MFA NON-PAPER AND HAS SAID HE WILL BE INFORMING OTHER JOURNALISTS. SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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